

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6208

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As of January 13, 2010

**Title:** An act relating to temporary agricultural directional signs on state highway rights-of-way.

**Brief Description:** Concerning temporary agricultural directional signs on state highway rights-of-way.

**Sponsors:** Senators Haugen, Hatfield and Shin.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 1/11/10.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Staff:** Amanda Cecil (786-7429)

**Background:** The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has established a process by rule for the permitting and fee schedule of, among other types of signs, temporary agricultural directional signs. Temporary agricultural directional signs are restricted to the following provisions:

1. Signs must be posted only during the period of time the seasonal agricultural product is being sold.
2. Signs must not be placed adjacent to the interstate highway system unless the sign qualifies as an on-premise sign.
3. Signs must not be placed within an incorporated city or town.
4. Premises on which the seasonal agricultural products are sold must be within 15 miles of the state highway, and necessary supplemental signing on local roads must be provided before the installation of the signs on the state highway.
5. Signs must be located so as not to restrict sight distances on approaches to intersections.
6. WSDOT must establish a permit system and fee schedule and rules for the manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of these signs in accordance with the policy of this chapter.
7. Signs in violation of these provisions must be removed in accordance with the procedures as a public nuisance.

A sign erected on the state highway right-of-way is considered a public nuisance and may be removed by WSDOT without notice.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Bill:** The bill as referred to committee not considered.

**Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute):** A temporary agricultural directional sign may be placed within the state highway right-of-way if the sign does not create a safety concern. The WSDOT region in which the sign is located must approve the permit within ten days of application.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: The agricultural community supports anything that can be done to promote/support local farmers. This is an opportunity to get additional signage out to direct traffic to local farms. WSDOT has concerns about safety and conflicts with federal requirements but feel that these can be addressed in the rule making process.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Ted Trepanier, WSDOT; Mike Shelby, Western Washington Agricultural Association; Jeff Canaan, Washington State Department of Agriculture; Scott Dilley, Washington Farm Bureau; Allen Rozema, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland.